

Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle

Directions: In 2013, PBS created a documentary on superheroes in comics, one of the most American topics and writing mediums. Americans created superheroes to help recall and cope with American issues. Today you will watch excerpts from this documentary – each of the excerpts will focus on Superman and his development throughout history.

Up, Up, and Away with Superman (0-12:38)

1. Who created Superman (2 names)?
2. Describe 2 details about Superman’s creators.
3. What inspired Superman’s costume?
4. Why does Jerry Siegel hate crime? Ultimately, this reason becomes his motivation for the character Superman.
5. During what time period was Superman created?
6. To whom were most of the comic publishers connected? Hint: This group wanted to be connected to a legitimate business.
7. How much money were Superman’s creators paid for the first Superman issue?
8. How many pages was the first issue?
9. From where does Superman emigrate?
10. Mark Waid summarizes Superman and describes that he represents America. Complete his statement:
“a _____ in a _____ land who wants to be part of a _____,
not _____”

Captain Marvel and the Cult of Superman (28:10-32:02)

11. What is one way that companies licensed Superman to make money?
12. When did the Superman radio show air? Hint: It targeted kids.

13. Who was Superman's teenage sidekick?

14. Historically, what was happening in the world when the Superman syndicated radio show aired?

15. Why did the comic book creators have a greater sense of urgency to get involved in WWII?

Superman: The Movie (3:26-9:47)

16. During what decade was truth, justice, and American way unraveling? Hint: The decades of Elvis's death and the Watergate scandal.

17. During what year was the plan for the first Superman movie announced?

18. Why did Warner Brothers produce *Superman: The Movie*? Hint: Think about the rights they owned.

19. Christopher Reeve, the actor who played Superman, notes that the hardest part of filming the movie was not getting people to believe that a man could fly. What was the hardest part of *Superman: The Movie*?

20. Why does Geoff Johns, iconic DC writer, claim that *Superman: The Movie* was important to comics?

21. While *Superman: The Movie* is getting rave reviews and making a lot of money, what is happening in the lives of Superman's creators?

22. What was happening to comic sales, despite the Superman movie's success?

Death of Superman (30:36-39:08)

23. What comics publisher was focusing on edgy stories and selling millions of copies?

24. Why did the DC writers' idea of marrying Lois and Clark get rejected?

25. When Superman died in the comics, what did the DC writers wear to the office the next day?

26. What started DC collectibles?

27. What was Loise Simonson's reason for killing off Superman in the 90s?

28. How much time passed before they brought Superman back?

29. Why were comics in the 1990s worthless?

30. The meaning of "Up in the sky" changed horribly on what day?

31. What inspired the comic Civil War/what is Civil War about?